BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

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THE NEWSPAPER OF RECORD FOR BEVERLY HILLS

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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

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\	Monday	61° 48°
	Tuesday	59° 46°
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Ficus Trees, Soccer Teams and Housing Element on City Council Agenda

BY PATRICK WAECHTER

The Beverly Hills City Council held its sixth meeting of the year on March 21, with highlights ranging from heartwarming to heated.

The bulk of public commentary from the nearly two-hour forum was dominated

by discussion of the city's action to remove ficus trees along Robertson Boulevard. Other topics included affordable housing, Nowruz-the Persian New Year celebration, and recognition of Lili Bosse's final official meeting as mayor. However, all of this came after the council took time out to celebrate the accomplishments of two local American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) teams.

"We've got champions in the house!" cheered Mayor Bosse as she called the teams See CITY COUNCIL, page 12



Photo courtesy city of Beverly Hills

Members of the City Council pose with Nooshin Meshkaty at the Nowruz table marking Persian New Year. The table will be on display at City Hall until March 24. Pictured (from left): Councilmember Sharona Nazarian, Councilmember John Mirisch, Nooshin Meshkaty (who put the table together), Mayor Lili Bosse, Vice Mayor Julian Gold and Councilmember Lester Friedman

Jewish Federation Leadership Concerned About Israel



Photo courtesy Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles' mission to Israel included meetings with high-level Israeli officials.

BY RYAN TOROK

Social turmoil roiling Israel because of controversial judicial reform is causing angst among Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles leadership.

"I think the thing most American Jews do not realize is the depth of this separation, the depth of this discord, how torn apart Israel is over this issue really is more than political in that it is deeply existential about what it means to be a Jew, about what it means to be an Israeli, about what it means to be a Zionist," Rabbi Noah Farkas, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, said in an interview after returning home from a two-day trip to Israel with other Federation leadership. "It really has uncovered some fault lines in the Israeli community that need to be addressed."

Those on the Federation mission, held in Jerusalem from March 14-16, included Farkas; Orna Wolens, chair of the board at the LA Federation; and approximately 20 Jewish

See JEWISH FEDERATION, page 14

Bosse Honored by Beth Jacob Congregation

BY CLARA HARTER

Mayor Lili Bosse felt the spirit of her parents beside her last Sunday when she received the Distinguished Leadership Award from her childhood synagogue of Beth Jacob. Bosse was selected as the first-ever recipient of the inaugural award for her dogged devotion to fighting antisemitism, her compassionate leadership as mayor, and her commitment to fostering an inclusive city for all community members.

Such accomplishments are everything her parents had dreamed for her after

See BOSSE HONORED, page 12

Courier Calendar

NOW - MARCH 26 OPEN FIST THEATRE COMPANY: "TO THE BONE"

2 P.M., 7 P.M., 8 P.M.

The Open Fist Theatre Company presents the world premiere production of "To the Bone." The show is a dark comedy about family, baseball, and genetics. Kelly and Maureen Dugan are sisters who live on the south shore of Boston and are still bitter about the Red Sox's loss to the Yankees 20 years ago. The two were known as "hard girls" in high school but now must prep their home to meet the child Kelly gave up for adoption when she was 17. Geneva's arrival bears complications for the pair. General admission is \$30 and \$20 for students and seniors. The venue for the production is The Rosalie at the Theatre 68 Arts Complex at 5112 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood. theatre68artscomplex.com

NOW - MARCH 26 VIBRATO GRILL JAZZ: FRIENDS, TONY GALLA, AND TERRY WOLLMAN 7 P.M., 7:30 P.M., 9:30 P.M.

Vibrato Grill Jazz will host three shows from March 24 - 26. On March 24, "Friends" plays, featuring Amy Keys, Robert Kyle, Jonathan Dresel, Quinn Johnson, and Hussain Jiffry. On March 25, Tony Galla performs R&B and Soul. Cover for each show is \$25, with showtimes at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Terry Wollman is scheduled to celebrate the release of his ninth album, "SURFACE," on March 26. Cover is \$25 or \$15 at the bar with one show at 7:30 p.m. Reservations are available online. vibratogrilljazz.com

NOW - MARCH 30 THE EL CAPITAN THEATRE: THROWBACK FILM FESTIVAL: "THE PRINCESS DIARIES" 10 A.M., 1 P.M., 4 P.M., 7 P.M.

The El Capitan in collaboration with Disney presents the first part of its Throwback Film Festival with showings of "The Princess Diaries." Showtimes for "The Princess Diaries" are daily until March 30 at 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 7 p.m., with additional times at 10 a.m. Friday through Sunday. Tickets are \$16 for adults and \$13 for children and seniors. A double feature is available on March 25 at 4 p.m. of "The Princess Diaries" and "The Princess Diaries 2: Royal lEngagement." Tickets for the double feature are \$30 and include a souvenir credential, a small popcorn and a drink. The festival continues through April with "The Parent Trap" and "Freaky Friday." Mega pack tickets are available for \$60 that include admission, a small popcorn, and a small drink for each film. The El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles. elcapitantheatre.com

NOW - MARCH 30 ATWATER VILLAGE THEATRE: "THIS WEEK THIS WEEK" THURS. 8 P.M.

Open Fist Theatre Company presents its weekly comic newscast, "This Week This Week," featuring a revolving cast of actors and guest stars at each performance. The show, created and directed by Second City's Ron West, incorporates elements of "The Daily Show" and "SNL" into a topical sketch

show. The performances are hosted at the Atwater Village Theatre at 3269 Casitas Ave., Los Angeles. Tickets are \$15. openfist.org

NOW - APRIL 16 SHAKESPEARE CENTER LA: WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S "THE TEMPEST: AN IMMERSIVE **EXPERIENCE**" THURS.-SAT. 8 P.M. SAT. 2:30 P.M., SUN. 3 P.M. The Shakespeare Center LA and After Hours Theatre Company present the premiere of "The Tempest: An Immersive Experience," a fully reimagined immersive performance based on William Shakespeare's "The Tempest." In this performance, the audience is cast ashore on a mysterious island to experience a fully realized telling of what is thought to have been Shakespeare's final play. Guests will find themselves shipwrecked onto the shifting sands of an island under the spell of supernatural powers. Attendees can explore the immersive space before convening for the primary performance. The play follows Prospero, the rightful Duke of Milan on a spiritual journey as he navigates his drive for revenge and the importance of forgiveness, freedom and imagination. Performances take place at Shakespeare Center LA at 1238 West First St., Los Angeles. Tickets range from \$35-\$125.

shakespearecenter.org

NOW - MAY 14 ICA LA: "MILFORD GRAVES: FUNDAMENTAL FREQUENCY" WED., FRI. 12-6 P.M. THURS. 12-7 P.M. SAT., SUN. 11-6 P.M.

The Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles presents "Fundamental Frequency," a show committed to the life and work of the late interdisciplinary artist Milford Graves. Graves' work spanned music, medicine, movement, and art that explored the cosmic relationship between rhythms and the universe. Graves was best known as a percussionist but also trained as a cardiac technician to better understand the connection between the drum beat and the heartbeat. He also invented a martial art, "Yara," operated a community garden as a botanist and herbalist, and taught as a professor in the Black Music Division at Bennington College. Featured works include films, photographs, and archival documentation of the artist's performances, a selection of assemblage sculptures, recorded music and handpainted album covers. Admission is free. ICA LA is located at 1717 E. 7th St., Los Angeles.

theicala.org

MARCH 30 DYNASTY TYPEWRITER: "LOVETT OR LEAVE IT: LIVE OR ELSE" 7:30 P.M.

The Dynasty Typewriter hosts "Lovett or Leave It: Live or Else" on Thursdays. Join Jon Lovette to break down the biggest news of the week and laugh along with his many hilarious friends. For this episode, guests include Ari Schapiro, Alan Ruck, Langston Kerman, Tawny Newsome, and Andrew Ti. Tickets are \$25 each. The Dynasty Typewriter is located at The Hayworth at 2511 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. Podcast episodes are released weekly on Saturdays on podcast platforms. crooked.com

APRIL 14 - MAY 21 THEATRE WEST: "MOOSE ON THE LOOSE" FRI.-SAT. 8 P.M. SUN. 2 P.M.

Theatre West presents "Moose on the Loose," a new comedy production written by Dina Morrone and directed by Peter Flood. The play follows an Italian family and a Canadian moose that wanders into their neighborhood. Beyond laughs, the performance touches on the immigrant experience and balancing cultural preservation and integration. Tickets are \$35 online, \$40 at the door, \$30 for students and military, and \$20 for children 12 and under. Theatre West is located at 3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West, Lost Angeles.

theatrewest.org



Photo by Carlos R. Hernandez

 $Erica\ Piccininni,\ Darby\ Winn,\ James\ Lemire,\ Stuart\ W.\ Howard\ and\ Meg\ Lin\ in\ "Moose\ on\ the\ Loose"$

the MAYBOURNE cafe



Stephanie Harris Named Director of Community Services for the City of Beverly Hills



Stephanie Harris

City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey has announced the appointment of Stephanie Harris to the position of Director of Community Services for the City of Beverly Hills, effective immediately. Harris has been serving as Interim Director since January. The department's former director, Jenny Rogers, has announced her retirement from public service.

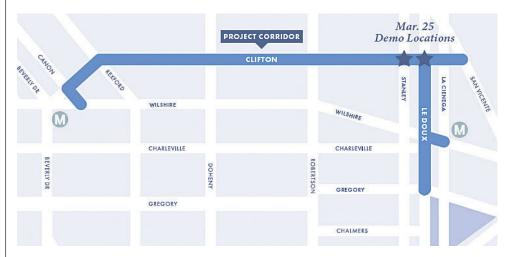
"I am thrilled to welcome Stephanie to her new role," said Hunt-Coffey. "With a deep knowledge of the department and Beverly Hills community, I know she will excel in this position and lead her incredible team with pride and a vision for the future."

As Director of Community Services, Harris will oversee the Department's Administrative Support, Human Services, Library, Arts & Culture, and Recreation and Parks divisions.

"I am thankful for the trust Nancy and the City Council have placed in me," said Harris. "With the work of the extraordinary staff in community services, our programs and community events will continue to

See STEPHANIE HARRIS, page 14

Public Invited to Mobility Study Demo on March 25



The mobility study will take place on the Clifton-Le Doux Corridor.

As part of community engagement for the Clifton-Le Doux Corridor Mobility Study, the city of Beverly Hills Public Works Department is inviting the public to attend a demonstration of temporary traffic calming devices. The Clifton-Le Doux Corridor Mobility Study is evaluating a range of traffic calming options to help slow vehicle speeds,

discourage cut-through traffic, and make both streets more comfortable for people walking and biking.

The demonstration will take place on March 25 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The city will place temporary curb extensions at the intersection of Clifton/Stanley and a temporary

See MOBILITY STUDY, page 14



Zeng Fanzhi Untitled, 2018 Oil on canvas 98 7/16 × 137 13/16 inches

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, purchased with funds provided by Dominic and Ellen Ng (M.2018.231) © 2023 Zeng Fanzhi

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Great art stirs our passions. We help you pursue yours.

We have a passion for art—and the people who make it possible. From artists and collectors to museums and galleries, our Private Banking team helps those in the art world pursue their unique interests with the same spirit that goes into every celebrated work. We go beyond banking, and beyond expectations, to deliver exceptional service centered around your point of view.



Head of Private Banking Agnes Lew 626.768.6656 eastwestbank.com

Environmental Groups March Against Climate Change



Photo courtesy Kavi Pictures

The march was part of a national day of action.

The climate-activist group Third Act led a rally of seniors and other environmental organizations on March 21 in Beverly Hills "to pressure the major banks to stop financing the expansion of the fossil fuel industry." Nearly 100 participants took part in the national day of action. The group met at Beverly Gardens

Park and marched through the rainy city visiting Bank of America, Chase, Citibank and Wells Fargo bank branches.

The marchers chanted, carried signs and giant credit cards with scissors to highlight

See ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, page 15

Motion to Prevent Bulgari Hotel Moves to L.A. City Council



Rendering of proposed Bulgari Resort Los Angeles courtesy Bulgari Hotels & Resorts

A Los Angeles City Council committee remained deadlocked this week regarding a motion to reconsider land use designation for the Bulgari Hotel project in Benedict Canyon. The motion requesting the director of planning to reconsider the designation will move to the full council for approval, but as a result of a 2-2 vote on March 21, there will be no

recommendation from the city's Planning and Land Use Committee.

"Colleagues before us today is a motion that I introduced last week to put an end to development that many in my district and I have been fighting against for years," Councilwoman for the 5th District Katy

See BULGARI HOTEL, page 14



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction for the Wilshire/Rodeo Station has resumed along Wilshire BI between Rodeo Dr and Carson Rd. Work includes permanent power utility installation, station construction and ground improvement.

- > Cross passage work is on weekdays 8am-11pm
- > K-rail closures in place 24/7
- > Utility work is weekdays from 8:15pm-7am and weekends 8am-8pm
- > Station construction is 24 hours a day, seven days a week



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OF THE YEAR

NOW THROUGH
March 26

UP TO

OF

OF

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**Solic is only at our Browly Drive location. All earther, Bridge, Norman Because, Marce & Dibbers are not included.

Replace of dense, No. 18 pft surper despring. No horse dauge, All table final.

Community

Music in the Mansion Festival Set for April 20-23



Music in the Mansion returns to Greystone Mansion and Gardens.

The City of Beverly Hills Community Services has announced the return of Music in the Mansion to historic Greystone Mansion and Gardens as a four-day classical music festival from April 20-23. Tickets are now on sale to Beverly Hills residents and will go on sale

to the general public on March 27. Tickets are \$22 per day for residents and \$30 per day for non-residents.

The Music in the Mansion Festival has been celebrating extraordinary music-making for 29 years, showcasing the winners of the annual Beverly Hills National Auditions and supporting the careers of outstanding emerging talent from all over the world. This series is curated and produced in partnership with Laura Schmieder, Director of iPalpiti Artists International, Inc.

The Festival's opening night on April 20 will feature the Shining Sound Ensemble. Armenian sacred folk music and European repertoires will be performed by artists Marina Hovhannisyan, soprano; Grygori Koval, guitar; Braley Bascon, baroque violin; and, Eric Tinkerhess, viola da gamba. Following Shing Sound Ensemble, artists Giorgi Latso and Anna Federova-Latso will perform their duo-piano repertoire that has critics calling their performance as "thrilling and flamboyant," and their performance of Mozart "impeccable by any standard, highlighted with exquisite thrills, drizzling runs and precise Mozartean dynamics."

On April 21, The OC Classical Trio will make their debut at Music in the Mansion, featuring artists Antonina Styczen, flute; Pola Benke, cello; and, Philip Matsuura, piano. These three artists have performed independently in numerous competitions around the world and each has received rave reviews among music critics. Following The OC Classical Trio is Duo Violino, with violinists Yuan Tian and Zi Zygmund Wang, two highly-acclaimed violinists who came together out of friendship, and have performed together with great success throughout the United States and in Italy.

On April 22, three performances will take place, starting with Seraphour Voice Ensemble with artists Heidi Vass, soprano 1; Melissa Birch, soprano 2; Emma Grace Roche, alto 1; and Dana Route, alto 2. These artists together will take the audience on a journey through iconic works of Palestrina, Brahms, and Thompson, paired with contemporary composers from the new world - all inspired by ancient Latin texts. Following Seraphour Voice Ensemble is Alexander Boldachev, a virtuoso-harpist and laureate of more than a dozen prestigious international competitions, who has performed at Carnegie Hall the Gaveau in Paris and the Great Hall of the Philharmonic in St. Petersburg and will inspire audiences with his musical journey through war and peace . Tandru Trio, The Clarinet Muse with artists Yasmina Spiegelberg, clarinet; Katelyn Vahala, piano; and Javier Iglesias Martin, cello, play with great energy and

See MANSION FESTIVAL, page 15



Join us for our LAST Business with Bosse!

This initiative was created by Beverly Hills Mayor Lili Bosse to put a spotlight on local businesses and just how special they are!

The community is invited to meet at each showcased business and enjoy a sampling of what makes our Beverly Hills businesses so special.

For more information visit beverlyhills.org/businesswithbosse

Questions? Email us at businesswithbosse@beverlyhills.org



Wednesday, March 29, 2023 Drop-in between 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Mastro's Steakhouse

246 N Cañon Dr. Beverly Hills, CA 90210

*Sample bites will be served

Free 2-hour parking at the City Garage located at 241 N Cañon Dr. \$5 flat rate for vehicles arriving after 6 p.m.

It's time to be together have fun community while supporting our local businesses.

Council Recognizes Loukà **Beverly Hills**



Mayor Lili Bosse and the Beverly Hills City Council recognized Loukà Beverly Hills with its Sixty-Second Shoutout at the City Council Meeting on March 21. Pictured (from left): Councilmember Lester Friedman, Vice Mayor Julian Gold, Loukà owners the Vasileos family, Bosse and Councilmembers John Mirisch and Sharona Nazarian

Self-Defense Course for International Women's Day



Beverly Hills City Councilmember Sharona Nazarian facilitated a self-defense training seminar in conjunction with Rabbi Yossi Eilfort from Magen Am. The complimentary seminar took place on International Women's Day, and was attended by City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey, as well as city commissioners and employees.

WITH GRATITUDE TO BEVERLY HILLS

From Students Run LA

With special thanks to...

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Arts & Entertainment

'The Lonely Few' – Both More and Less

BY NEELY SWANSON

"The Lonely Few," a musical premiering at the Geffen Playhouse in the tiny Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater, was commissioned by the Geffen. Ambitious and audacious, "The Lonely Few" is a play about hopes, dreams, successes, failures, disappointments and love in all its permutations and boundaries.

Opening in an intimate bar/club, the house band, The Lonely Few, revs up with a loud raucous number led by Lila on guitar and vocals, Dylan on bass guitar, Paul on drums and JJ on keyboard. This is their release from the day-to-day stultifying existences they lead in the tiny Kentucky town from which there doesn't seem to be an escape. Dylan manages his father's Save-A-Lot discount store where Lila restocks the shelves. Each is stuck in their own version of hell. JJ is a recent high school graduate whose curiosity exceeds the norms of small town Kentucky; Paul, the elder statesman of the group, is a mystery; Dylan's freedom is now tied to his pregnant girlfriend; and then there's Lila, the truly talented member of this group. She's irrevocably attached to home by an unemployed brother with substance abuse issues. Their parents are dead and she feels compelled to save her brother from himself. Her dreams of stardom and exploration were shelved long ago because family will always come first. So it's off to the dead-end job during the day and the club at night where the audience is as limited as the population in this no-future hamlet.

Then one fateful night, (it's always a fateful night) into the club walks Amy, as



Photos by Jeff Lorch

Ciara Renée as Amy

much of a country and western star as has ever appeared in their town. Amy, too, has a tie to this small town in the guise of Paul. He was, for half a moment, her stepfather until he took off one day without a word. Paul was her one glimpse of stability in an otherwise chaotic and painful existence. Amy's presence exhilarates the band, especially when she agrees to sing her most recent song about the breakup with

her wife.

The mutual attraction Amy and Lila feel goes beyond Lila's musical talent. Soon an offer is made for The Lonely Few to accompany Amy on her smalltown Southern tour; one that will end in Nashville. This could be the boost she needs to prove to her record label that she is more than just a backup singer who writes, and it's a once-in-a-lifetime

opportunity for The Lonely Few, especially Lila who may have the talent to propel her forward.

"The Lonely Few" is a play with the aspiration of being a rock musical where the songs reflect the roadblocks faced by the protagonists. Lila's group is a throwback to the kind of '80s heavy metal groups like Metallica and contemporary punk rock of today with a touch of country. The music is part of the real estate of the play and should be a reflection not only of the scene but should also be moving the story along. Now I'm not looking for a "Some Enchanted Evening" moment that introduces true love, but a song called "God of Nowhere" should have been understandable enough to push the thematic framework of the play forward, but it wasn't. Certainly, the over-miking of the band may have been deliberately intended to enhance the immediacy of being in a small club, but not at the sacrifice of the lyrics.

Better were the country ballads in establishing relationships and past history; but even so, in many cases they only underscored the lack of earned emotions in a story that doesn't cover unexpected ground. It is, unfortunately, too easy to see what will come next in each dramatic scene.

Zoe Sarnak, the composer and lyricist, has not yet hit but has won several awards for her original theater music and had works developed with major New York venues like the Public and the New York Theater Workshop. Based on "The Lonely Few," she still has bridges to cross.

It will be difficult for "The Lonely Few" to overcome its deficits. As it is now,



Lauren Patten as Lila, Damon Daunno as Dylan, Helen J Shen as JJ, Ciara Renée as Amy, and Thomas Silcott as Paul

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the music is not quite good enough. It's not necessary for a musical to be packed with hummable tunes. I don't recall any of the songs from the Tony Awardwinning "Fun Home" or "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," but I do remember that both had music that effectively moved the story forward and helped define their characters. Without defining music, the triteness of the plot is more obvious. Girl meets girl, girl loses girl is still the same saga even when the gender is changed. Telling a story of aspirations, roadblocks, codependency and fear of failure or success has been done many times before and will be done many times again. But to tell this story successfully, the author needs to dig deeper into character. The audience needs to feel the losses and/or triumphs personally.

Rachel Bonds, the book writer (theaterspeak for playwright), has developed and written many plays and has been very interested in probing the theme of familial relationships, betrayals and unfulfilled

lives. "The Lonely Few" covers similar ground, but the character development necessary to excavate her themes has not been fully explored.

Lila and Amy are the focus and best developed, and that is as it should be. But the supporting characters are not elaborated. Maybe there are too many of them. Paul is merely a device to get Amy in the picture. Dylan wants to be a rock star but will his pregnant girlfriend change his trajectory? And who is JJ and what is her purpose? Lila's codependency with her brother Adam needs more depth because it is on this relationship that her future lives or dies. We need to feel her visceral connection to him and we don't. All of this ends up being a case of too much with too little.

Some of these problems are not immediately visible because the actors are able to bring more to the story than is on the page. And this is where "The Lonely Few" excels. Even given little to do, Thomas Silcott as Paul, Helen J Shen as JJ and Damon Daunno as Dylan are excellent.

We care about them because they bring more to their characters than the writing deserved. Even Joshua Close who plays Adam is compelling as the derelict brother, but I suspect it's Joshua we care for and not Adam.

This brings us to the two best reasons to see this musical. Beth Lipari and Phyllis Schuringa, the casting directors, scored a major coup in getting Ciara Renée and Lauren Patten, Amy and Lila, respectively. Both are seasoned Broadway musical actresses; Patten received a Tony for her role in "Jagged Little Pill." Their voices are transcendent and they power you into believing in their characters even when the script leaves voids in their actions. Patten is both winning and ambivalent. Her voice aches with unfulfilled yearning. If her actions are sometimes inexplicable, she does her best to fill in what the script has left blank.

For me, however, Ciara Renée is the star, tipping the balance of the play in her favor even when she's not in the scene.

Renée has the kind of power that creates a glow around her and elevates the others on stage with her. She conveys loss, disappointment and betrayal with a tremor in her voice and a hardness in her eyes.

Like the acting, the scenic design by Sibyl Wickersheimer is outstanding, bringing the nightclub and stage into the audience and creating a loft for Lila and Adam's apartment without diminishing the already minuscule square footage available to the set. "The Lonely Few" was co-directed by Trip Cullman and Ellenore Scott.

Despite my ambivalence about this musical, it's important to note that the audience was wildly enthusiastic.

"The Lonely Few" is on stage at the Geffen's Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater Tuesdays through Sundays until April 30. Check with the theater for times and availability. Runtime: 2 hours and 15 minutes including one intermission.

Geffen Playhouse 10886 Le Conte Ave., Los Angeles •



L-R: Damon Daunno as Dylan, Lauren Patten as Lila, and Helen J Shen as JJ



Lauren Patten as Lila and Damon Daunno as Dylan



Helen J Shen as JJ



Neely Swanson spent most of her professional career in the television industry, almost all of it working for David E. Kelley. In her last full-time position as Executive Vice President of Development, she reviewed writer submissions and targeted content for adaptation. As she has often said, she did book reports for a living. For several years she was a freelance writer for "Written By," the magazine of the WGA West and

was adjunct faculty at USC in the writing division of the School of Cinematic Arts. Neely has been writing film and television reviews for the "Easy Reader" for more than 10 years. Her past reviews can be read on Rotten Tomatoes where she is a tomato-approved critic.

Education

Beverly High Students Nominated for U.S. Presidential Scholars Program



Miles Kottler and Alexandra Bakshian

Beverly Hills High School students Miles Kottler and Alexandra Bakshian have been named nationally as part of only 5,000 candidates in the 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors.

"An achievement of this magnitude is nothing short of outstanding," BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy said. "We are so proud of both Miles and Alexandra for their dedication and hard work. They

exemplify the definition of our BHUSD mission statement, 'educational excellence.'"

Kottler and Bakshian were selected from nearly 3.6 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools this year and were selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character, and involvement in community and school activities.

Going forward, a panel of educators will review the candidates before selecting approximately 600 semifinalists in early April. The Commission on Presidential Scholars, made up of 32 eminent citizens appointed by the President, will select the finalists, and the U.S. Department of Education will announce the Scholars in May. U.S. Presidential Scholars are honored for their accomplishments during the National Recognition Program each June.

Established in 1964 by Executive Order of the President, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program recognizes the nation's most distinguished graduating seniors for their accomplishments in many areas. •

Two Beverly High Students Named Music Center Spotlight Semifinalists



Bradyn Prisand

BY RYAN TOROK

The Music Center's recently announced semifinalists for its 35th annual Spotlight program—a free, nationally recognized arts learning initiative—include two Beverly Hills High School students.

Senior Emily Gorin and sophomore



Emily Gorin

Bradyn Prisand were among 112 high school students from Southern California to advance to the next stage of the Spotlight competition, which provides scholarships and artistic development for teens. This year, more than 1,300 teens from more than 245 schools, 170 cities and eight counties auditioned for the prestigious program.



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS will be holding a PUBLIC MEETING

STREET PARKLETS FOR OUTDOOR DINING (DESIGN STANDARDS)

Stakeholder & Liaison Workshop #5

The City of Beverly Hills will be holding a community meeting (in-person or virtual option) to continue conversations with business owners and residents regarding the future design of parklets for outdoor dining in the City.

We will be discussing project updates, outreach results, material palettes and the next steps.

CITY SEEKS YOUR INPUT, PLEASE JOIN US.

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 | 11:00am – 12:00pm

City Hall - Room 280A (455 N. Rexford Drive.)

VIRTUAL OPTION:

https://beverlyhills-org.zoom.us/my/committee | Meeting ID: 516 191 2424 | Passcode: 90210

For more info visit beverlyhills.org/openbh or email business@beverlyhills.org

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Gorin is participating in the program's acting emphasis, while Prisand, a member of Beverly's acclaimed dance company, is focused on non-classical voice skills.

Launched in 1988, Spotlight is a program of the Music Center's TMC Arts, which aims to create inclusive arts and cultural experiences that support the diverse voices and communities of Los Angeles. Semifinalists, including Gorin and Prisand, receive \$500 cash scholarships while grand prize finalists

each receive \$5,000 cash scholarships. Semifinalists attend special mastery classes within their discipline with highly regarded artists before auditioning before a panel of judges.

A total of 14 finalists, two selected from each discipline, perform in the Music Center's Spotlight Grand Finale on June 8 at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.



Photo courtesy of Mandi Dyner

Beverly Hills High School students (from left): Benny Silvers, Ollie Timurov, Darren Beroukhim, Jayden Bim-Merle, Jesse Lyga, Daniel Dyner and Lucas Courneya cheered on their wrestling coach, BHPD Officer Jesse Lyga, at the Los Angeles Marathon on March 19.

Fundraiser Will Support BHHS Student's Cancer Treatment



BY RYAN TOROK

Beverly Hills High School (BHHS) student Zoe Suder is accustomed to tough opponents on the soccer field, but her latest fight, combating cancer—specifically, osteosarcoma cancer, which starts in the bones—wasn't one she was prepared for.

Helping her with the challenge, a community fundraiser is taking place next month to support Zoe's cancer treatment.

"I still can't believe we have been chosen for this journey, but for whatever reason, Zoe has taken on this challenge like the champion and warrior she is!" Zoe's mother, Leslie Suder, said in an Instagram post publicizing the upcoming event.

The fundraiser is taking place April 8, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the high school's soccer stadium. Join the community in Coach Michael Holzer's Soccer Camp Fundraiser. The cost is \$100 per player, with proceeds benefiting Suder's treatment.

The event is open to anyone ages 6-18. For additional information, call 213-663-6486 or visit coachmichaelholzer.com.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The City of Beverly Hills is working to expand transportation options. We need your input on how the Clifton-Le Doux corridor can support slower vehicle speeds and be a more pleasant place to walk and bike.

We are hosting two outreach events in March where you can learn more about different improvement options requested by the community for the corridor and share your preferences with us.

Visit beverlyhills.org/cliftonledoux for more information on the project.



Partnering with your community Experience different types of improvements demonstrated in the roadway!



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Intersections of Clifton / Le Doux and Clifton / Stanley



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CITY COUNCIL, from page 1

forward to receive certificates and pose for photos.

On March 11, two teams of boys from AYSO Region 76 in Beverly Hills, the under 10s and under 12s, won this year's Western States Championship. Although a team of girls won the championship last year, no boys team from the organization's 48-year history in the city has ever achieved this distinction.

"We will never forget March 11, when you made history that way," said Bosse.

The meeting's most delightful moment included speeches from the coaches of both teams, Ji Lee and Martin Marcus.

Lee, coach of the under 10s who also serves as AYSO's regional commissioner, offered some perspective on the sheer magnitude of this accomplishment.

"The western states comprise about 180,000 players, so when we look at these two teams, and in their age categories, they've proven to be the best of 180,000 players," said Lee.

Marcus, coach of the under 12s, offered perspective on just how far his team had come since he began working with them.

"This is pretty much the same team that stayed together for over two and a half, almost three years. And when they started, I can tell you, there was no chance in the world we could win the Western States Championships," said Marcus. "The parents know, we were getting beat 6-0, 8-0, 11-0, and it's really remarkable what these boys did. It's unbelievable."

The council also recognized the holiday of Nowruz, which is known popularly as the Iranian or Persian New Year. A pre-recorded video featuring community member Nooshin Meshkaty and Councilmember Sharona Nazarian offered an introduction to the traditions practiced during the annual celebration, including the symbolic Haftsin table. After the video, Bosse reminded those in attendance that a Haft-Sin Table will remain on display at Beverly Hills City Hall for the remainder of the week.

"Happy spring, happy Nowruz, and only good things ahead," said Bosse.

The vibe in the room quickly shifted when the time came for public comment. Across telephone, in-person, and written admissions, more than a dozen individuals spoke on the controversial ongoing action by the city to remove mature ficus trees from Robertson Boulevard.

Forty-nine of the 87 trees identified by the so-called sidewalk enhancement project have already been removed, according to Public Information Manager Lauren Santillana. They will soon be replaced with crape myrtles and Mexican fan palms.

The city has dubbed the trees invasive, citing complaints of growing roots causing damage to underground plumbing and rendering sidewalks uneven and unnavigable for individuals using mobility devices. Referencing concerns for aesthetics, history, and the environment, commenters implored officials to halt the phased project and save the 38 remaining trees.

"Cutting down all those trees is no different than Bolsonaro cutting down the

trees in the Amazon rainforest, just on a smaller scale," said Lauren Steiner, referencing action taken by the former Brazilian president to deforest millions of acres of the so-called lungs of planet Earth.

Nadia Mansour suggested that Beverly Hills officials could consult with her former home city to find a creative solution to this problem.

"In Paris, we have trees that are over 150 years, sometimes 200. Nobody removes the trees, and they have huge roots," she said. "Call the city of Paris and ask them how they do it."

One of the later comments came from Tiffany Page, who teared up as she quoted Dr. Seuss' ubiquitous, pro-environment children's book, "The Lorax."

"I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees. The trees have no tongues, so I am screaming from the top of my lungs," said Page, before gifting a copy of the book to Bosse. "I'm gonna give you this book, Mayor Lili, if you could read it, and you can make the decision of speaking for the trees."

Another matter that drew noteworthy commentary was the issue of the city's general plan and housing element annual report. In March 2020, the state of California issued a Regional Housing Needs Assessment for all cities, covering the period of October 2021 to October 2029. The plan requires a build out of more than 3.5 million housing units statewide. Of those, the state has demanded that Beverly Hills create 3,104 new housing units by the year 2029, more than 50% of which should be designated for occupants with low or very low income. A previous version of the plan was not certified by the state.

One commenter, James Wendell, called in to protest the city's housing plan. Wendell stated that he had previously lived in Beverly Hills but had been displaced in 2005 "due to illegal Airbnbs and landlords with lack of protections for young renters."

"I've been disappointed because this is the second or third iteration of a housing element. I started back in 2011, and here we are in 2023," said Wendell. "Unfortunately, because of 50 or 60 years of not addressing this issue, it has exacerbated to the degree that very low income, low income housing is basically not even a consideration in the

Following Wendell's comment, the council voted to approve the general plan to be sent to the state for review, with only one no vote from Councilmember John Mirisch. If the state does not accept the plan, legal action to force compliance could be forthcoming, like that which is currently proceeding with the city of Huntington Beach.

At the end of the night, Bosse moved to adjourn the meeting, only to be interrupted by Vice Mayor Dr. Julian A Gold, who will assume the position of mayor on April 4.

"Let's take a minute to applaud our mayor, and a year's worth of work. Strong work," said Gold, as the entire body applauded the soon-to-be outgoing mayor.

"A very productive year," added Councilmember Lester J. Friedman.

"We did it together," said Bosse, thanking her colleagues.

Mayor Bosse received the award from Rabbi Topp (left) and Executive Board President of Beth Jacob Congregation Jonathan Stern.

BOSSE HONORED, from page 1

surviving unimaginable horrors during the Holocaust and forging a new life in Beverly

"They moved to Beverly Hills as immigrants because they wanted to provide the American dream for their only daughter and they wanted me to give back and to learn from what they had to go through," Bosse said. "Accepting this honor was really my way to honor them and to honor everything that I have grown to be."

Bosse was granted the award at the congregation's annual Tiferet Gala, which took place at the Peterson Automotive Museum on March 19, or as it's known in the Jewish calendar, the 27th of Adar. The gala is a celebration of the community and an important fundraiser for the congregation.

For Bosse, accepting the award was a "full-circle moment."

The Orthodox synagogue is the congregation where her parents Rose and Jack Toren attended services every Saturday. Its members became like a second family to the Toren household, welcoming them with kind and open arms when they settled in Beverly Hills.

Jack never missed a Sabbath service and had even attended morning prayers on the day he passed in 1993. The congregation's former Rabbi Abner Weiss married Bosse and her husband Jon over 30 years ago.

Although Bosse doesn't identify as an Orthodox Jew – she and her husband prefer to attend a synagogue where they can be seated together – the Beth Jacob Congregation nevertheless holds a very special place in her heart.

"That was an extremely emotionally powerful evening for me," she said, referring to the gala. "It was a very full circle moment" The plaque given to Bosse from Beth Jacob

considering that my parents literally shaped me at that particular synagogue."

"That synagogue has been part of the fiber and the fabric of our community for decades and decades," she added.

As mayor, Bosse has tried to embody the values that her parents and the congregation instilled in her: bravery, compassion, kindness and faith in humanity.

After all, it was these very values that allowed her parents to both survive the Holocaust and overcome the great grief of knowing that the rest of their family members had perished.

Bosse's mother Rose was among the very few survivors of Auschwitz. She escaped during the death march that took place from Jan. 17 to 21, 1945, when Soviet forces were approaching and the Germans decided to evacuate the remaining 56,000 prisoners out of Auschwitz.

"They were taking the prisoners out to march and die right before liberation and she decided to have the bravery to walk out of the line and hide behind a tree," Bosse

At the time Rose was just a teenager, but because of that moment of courage she was able to survive and watch with great pride as almost 70 years later her daughter was sworn in as Mayor of Beverly Hills in 2014. A year later Rose passed at the age of 91.

Growing up, Bosse's parents always encouraged her to speak out against injustice. And that's exactly what she has done as mayor, be it presenting at the Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism in Athens, Greece, or marching in the name of Justice for Mahsa Amini in the streets of Los Angeles.

Bosse has also appeared on "Dr. Phil" to speak about the importance of fighting antisemitism and called for accountability after antisemitic fliers were found in Beverly Hills in October 2022.

"I constantly speak out regarding hate and human rights," said Bosse. "The fact that they (the Beth Jacob Congregation) acknowledged that, it really touched my soul in the deepest way.



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Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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STEPHANIE HARRIS, from page 4

provide an exceptional quality of life for those who live, work and visit our incredible city."

Harris joined the city in 2014 as a Management Analyst in the Community Services Department, later promoting to Senior Management Analyst and Community Services Manager before joining the City Manager's Office in 2022 as Community Outreach Manager. Prior to joining Beverly Hills, Harris worked for the City of Rosemead's Parks and Recreation Department for 11 years.

She earned her bachelor's degree from California State University, Los Angeles, and her master's degree in Public Administration from California State University, Northridge.



Rendering of bungalow at proposed Bulgari Resort Los Angeles courtesy of Bulgari Hotels & Resorts

BULGARI HOTEL GROUPS, from page 5 Yaroslavksy said. "And, I have been fighting against it for years."

Yaroslavsky said her district is overwhelmingly opposed to the project, as is Mayor Karen Bass and environmental groups such as the Sierra Club and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

"And from a land use perspective, allowing an intensive commercial use in a very low density, fire-prone residential area is a terrible idea," Yaroslavsky said. "Nowhere in Los Angeles are we allowing new commercial uses in low-density hillside communities, specifically because of the wildfire and landslide risks."

The project, introduced in 2018, would be located 9704-9712 West Oak Road. It includes plans for a 59-room hotel and eight single-family homes on an approximately 32.67-acre property, according to the motion. The hotel portion would include 18 buildings totaling 59 guest rooms, a standalone parking structure, funicular railway and a main hotel building including outdoor amenities, commercial space and subterranean parking. The residential portion of the site would contain eight single-family homes, ranging between 12,000 and 48,000 square feet with associated garage parking. Gary Safady, the developer proposing the project, said in published media reports that he was working to contain events on site "as much as possible, making the hotel seem to blend in with the environment."

Safady also said events would be smaller in size than at two nearby hotels—the Hotel Bel-Air and the Beverly Hills Hotel—and that any removed trees would be replaced on a 4-to-1 basis. Safady, who called in during the meeting's public comment period, urged the committee to allow for due process and further asked for accurate details to be made public about the project.

"This is why it's critical for the process to continue to allow the public and responsible agencies to continue to review CEQA process and safety features," he said.

More than 30 speakers called in to express their opposition to the project and most reiterated the same concerns Yaroslavsky mentioned in her comments. But a few Benedict Canyon residents and several representatives from labor unions encouraged the committee to support the hotel project, saying it would create job opportunities and allow for more Angelenos and visitors to experience the beauty of the canyon. Councilman John Lee, who voted against the motion, asked for clarification on whether the city had ever rescinded an amendment to the general plan for a development project, but staff from the Department of Planning could not provide answers.

Yaroslavsky, who said she had lengthy conversations with both the City's Attorney's Office and the Planning Department, said it was within the discretion of the department to rescind the process it had started, and added that the decision to do so cannot be arbitrary and capricious.

Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, who also voted no, agreed with Lee that it's important to allow for due process.

"There is a process and I'd like to stick to it, and be transparent and consistent about it," Rodrigruez said. "I believe that an environmental impact review will substantiate all the concerns that are being raised in this process."

Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson, who supported the motion along with Yaroslavsky, reiterated that the motion would ask the director of planning to consider rescinding the initiation of the amendment to the general plan, which would give the Bulgari Hotel a specific designation that would allow the commercial project to be developed in a residential area. It's "not instructing or requesting," he added. "This is a tricky project, that on one hand, people say well wait a little longer, which is sort of always the refrain when folks want more time to negotiate," Harris-Dawson said.

"I suspect at the end of the EIR, people will want to wait a little longer for something else because the council is taking a strong stance and the neighborhood councils have taken a strong stance, and you know where they're going to be," he continued. •

MOBILITY STUDY, from page 4

traffic circle at the intersection of Clifton/Le Doux. The community is invited to drive, walk, or bike through these intersections to experience how they look and feel, and tell the city their preferences. Feedback received will be used to consider potential locations

for traffic calming devices supported by the community.

More details can be found on the project website at www.beverlyhills.org/cliftonle-doux. For questions, contact the city at 310-285-2467 or AskPW@beverlyhills.org. •



Photo courtesy Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles President Rabbi Noah Farkas (third row, sixth from left) and LA Federation Board Chair Orna Wolens (third row, second from left) join Jewish Federation leadership from several major cities for an urgent two-day mission in Israel addressing the country's current domestic crisis.

JEWISH FEDERATION from page 1

Federation leaders from Boston, Chicago, Southern Florida, Denver, Washington D.C., and San Francisco.

"There was a lot of questioning about what it means to be an Israeli, a Zionist, a Jew—what it means to be a democracy. There were a lot of questions," Wolens shared. "With that being said, as American Jews, we always tread lightly, but this is a moment where we felt we had to go and express our concerns."

Jewish Federations of North America, an umbrella organization for 150 federations, organized the mission, during which Farkas, Wolens and others met with protestors, business leaders, civic leaders and scholars to discuss the highly polarizing judicial reform being proposed in Israel, one which has prompted protests across the country.

"We are part of a global Jewish community and what's happening in Israel is really challenging and troubling, no matter what your political views are," Farkas told the Courier.

Mass street protests in Tel Aviv and other cities have been taking place since early-2023, galvanizing hundreds of thousands of people from all sectors of Israeli society, including the religious, Modern Orthodox, women, Arabs and the LGBT community. The unprecedented display of opposition is calling out the government of recently elected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu's far-right ministers have proposed plans to reform Israel's judiciary. The effect would, essentially, limit the power of the country's Supreme Court while giving members of the Israeli Knesset—Israel's version of parliament—the power to appoint judges and overturn court decisions, thereby eliminating checks and balances between the legislative and judicial branches of the government.

With emotions running high, Farkas characterized the demonstrations as evidence of a healthy and vibrant democracy. Protestors, he said, have been waving Israeli flags instead of burning them, even selling flags to pay for their organizing efforts.

Critics of the plan have said the current reform proposal goes too far. Many have embraced a compromise proposal put forth by Israeli President Isaac Herzog, but events inside of Israel are evolving rapidly.

Farkas declined to share what version of compromise the Federation supports, likening the role the Federation plays to a bridge-builder.

"We went to advocate for compromise," he said. "What happens in Israel matters to the American-Jewish community."

His visit to Israel was a whirlwind of activity.

"I was literally there on the ground for a day," Farkas said, describing meetings with top-level Israeli officials, the country's president and civil society activists.

"The purpose of the mission was to show that Diaspora Jewry cares about Israel, express our concerns about the ramifications of the judicial reform process and to advocate for compromise," Wolens said.

Asked if they tried meeting with Netanyahu during their brief visit, "I'm not going to speak to that," Farkas said. "We tried meeting with as many people as we could."

Having returned from the trip, the Federation leadership is now attempting to inform the community about events in Israel. This effort includes organizing a three-part webinar series. The first discussion was held March 22, featuring two of Israel's leading tech titans and social activists.

"The whole purpose of these webinars is to teach people, connect them to what's happening in Israel on all sides of the issue," Farkas said. "We just think LA Jews, the LA Jewish community, and I suppose the Angeleno community writ large, before they make assumptions about what's happening, they should hear from people directly."

Rabbi Michal Morris Camille is a "sabra"—a Jewish person born in Israel—and she's distraught over what's happening there.

"This isn't about partisanship," she said. "This is about the future of Israel's democracy."

PAGE 14 BEVERLY HILLS COURIER MARCH 24, 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, from page 5 cutting ties with these banks. Signs noted the participation of Third Act, Elders Climate Action and Extinction Rebellion environmental groups in the protest. Extinction Rebellion LA's historian, Amy Woodson Boulton, closed out the event by acknowledging the protestors and their efforts.

This rally was one of the more than 100 events which took place in over half the US states, involving art installations with activists cutting up their credit cards in protest of the billions of dollars in lending and underwriting that banks provide to fossil fuels companies and projects. These projects are responsible for harmful emissions that scientists have linked to extreme weather events which have caused death and destruction in the US and across the world.

The rally in Beverly Hills was held as California has been inundated with historic atmospheric rivers while simultaneously experiencing the biggest drought in a millennium, growing water shortages, a sharp increase in the intensity of forest fires across the state and growing instances of toxic air due to fossil fuel activities.

The day was organized by Third Act,

a group for climate activists over 60 years of age, co-founded by Bill McKibben. In total, more than 50 partner organizations supported the day of action, including Elders Climate Action, Extinction Rebellion, the Sierra Club, GreenFaith, the Hip Hop Caucus, Union of Concerned Scientists, SoCal 350 Climate Action, Local 721 SEIU, Interfaith Power and Light, Dayenu and People's Action.

Protestors noted that while US banks have verbally committed to help reach the global target of Net Zero emissions by 2050, none have published a credible transition plan or ruled out fossil fuel financing for expanding projects.

By contrast some European banks are making these commitments. In December HSBC, Europe's largest bank, announced it would no longer finance new oil and gas projects. Danske Bank this year said it would stop financing oil and gas projects and corporate financing.

Over 17,000 customers have signed a pledge to move their money out of these banks if the banks don't move their investments out of fossil fuel expansion, and these pledges were delivered to the banks' CEOs.



Photo courtesy Kavi Pictures

Protestors braved the rain on March 21.



Photo courtesy Kavi Pictures

Protestors marched to several large banks.

Coldwater Canyon Drive Advisory

A contractor has begun construction on Coldwater Canyon Drive to replace aging pipeline and install new pipeline. Through early 2024, work will take place 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays). Coldwater Canyon Drive from Rexford Drive to Monte Cielo Drive will have only one lane open in each direction; however, in certain

locations, only one lane will be available for both directions. Motorists are urged to use alternate routes, be courteous and yield to those leaving their driveways and homes in the impacted area.

For additional information contact Public Works Customer Service at 310-285-2467 or email askpw@beverlyhills.org. •

MANSION FESTIVAL, from page 6

charisma through Southern California and were selected as the only ensemble from the USC Thornton School of Music to participate in the 2019 Harmos Festival in Porto, Portugal.

On April 23, the afternoon performances will feature Fiato String Quartet with artists Carrie Kennedy, violin; Joel Pargman, violin; Aaron Oltman, viola; and Ryan Sweeney, cello. They will celebrate the intersection of two most universally beloved art forms: film and music. This performance brings classical music via composers who influenced Hollywood. The finale with Sejin

Park, baritone, an opera singer and Korean baritone, is the winner of numerous competitions and alumni of Palm Beach Opera Benenson Program, and will be singing Germont in La Traviata in New York this year. Park will be accompanied by pianist Hyemin Jeong and they will perform pieces from Rachmaninov, Ravel, Korngold and more

Seating is limited. For more information and tickets, visit_www.beverlyhills.org/musicinthemansion. For more information on the artists, visit www.beverlyhills.org/musicinthemansion for artists' biographies.



Duo Violino artists Zi Wang and Yuan Tian are featured performers.



The Tandru Trio with Yasmina Spiegelberg, Katelyn Vahala and Javier Iglesias Martin will take part in the event.

Award-Winning BEVERLY HILLS OURIER

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Birthdays



BRENT DUFFEY March 24



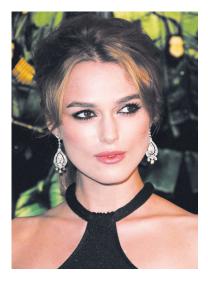
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Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll make an impression on someone without trying to. In fact, not trying is the secret to your charm. You've thought about the image you wanted to portray, but it turns out that you are at your magnetic best when you're just being yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Keeping up with the world can have you feeling simultaneously connected and sad. Choose your input carefully. This is an excellent day to clean up your social media feeds and find sources of news and entertainment that are likely to bring uplift.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Delineations of right and wrong do not seem as clear-cut to you as they once did. To think of morality in terms of helping and harming could make this easier. Who or what will be helped or harmed? Know this before you make your move.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Expecting to get it right on the first try -- or the first 10 tries for that matter -- is silly, and possibly unkind. Be nice to yourself instead. Give yourself

plenty of leeway to try what interests you whether or not you're any good at it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Step back and let your loved ones learn and do on their own. You have better things to do than get involved in situations that don't require your input. If you can get it, sunshine and exercise will be the self-care of happiness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Just when things were in danger of growing monotonous, as if on cue the tedium is broken by a new challenge. You respond with swift action and a willingness to take risks. You have a way of minimizing the risk in your mind though, so it hardly feels like the courageous act that it is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Because you care about someone, their lives and actions have impact on you. You ride along through the range of emotions that they are experiencing. This isn't necessarily unhealthy codependency; rather, it's part of the human social bond.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll make superb decisions today, the sort that would not be possible had you not learned from past experience, most notably the mistakes. As you continue to build on your

yesterdays, you'll have an advantage in the game of life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can't see the fascinating aspects of yourself because they all seem so normal to you. However, your lovable quirks, talents and natural gifts will be seen and appreciated by others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When others around you feel comfortable, so do you. You'll provide a safe space with encouraging words, an affirming smile, a healing touch. This, teamed with a great sense of timing, will make a difference in the

lives of others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Someone has to lead. The one in charge isn't necessarily any more talented than the others on the team, but they have the role. Respect and defer to authority today because it makes everything run better.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Memories are malleable. The way you frame the past can change. It's best to think of the past in a way that makes moving forward easy. Some of your old stories have become cumbersome and you'll either lose them or rewrite them.



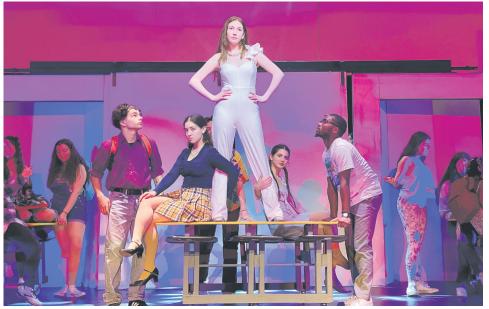
Clive the French bulldog is this week's eligible pup for adoption. He's 2 years old, 30 pounds, and very sweet. If you'd like to meet Clive, please contact Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538.

shelterhopepetshop.org

PAGE 16 BEVERLY HILLS COURIER MARCH 24, 2023

Mayor Lili Bosse Stars in 'Mean Girls' Stage Production





Top: Beverly Hills Mayor Lili Bosse and BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy and the cast of the BHHS production of "Mean Girls," which debuted on March 23 Bottom: The "Mean Girls" cast in action

AYSO Teams Win the Western State Championships





Mayor Lili Bosse and the City Council recognized players and coaches from two American Youth Soccer Organization teams, BH-United-12X (boys 12 and under) and BH-Fire-10X (boys 10 and under) at the March 21 City Council meeting. For the first time in the history of the organization's Boys Teams, they won the Western States Championship.

Police Blotter

The following incidents of assault and burglary have been reported. Streets are usually indicated by block numbers.

ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED

3/19/2023, 10:30 p.m. at 9600 Block of SUNSET BLVD.

ASSAULT - SIMPLE

3/18/2023, 11:30 p.m. at 400 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

3/13/2023, 7:45 p.m. at 300 Block of S. BEVERLY DRIVE 3/13/2023, 7:34 p.m. at OLYMPIC BOULEVARD / S. ELM DRIVE

3/12/2023, 12:10 a.m. at 400 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

3/9/2023, 7:50 p.m. at 400 Block of S. ROXBURY DRIVE

3/9/2023, 5 p.m. at N. ROBERTSON BOULEVARD / CLIFTON WAY 3/8/2023, 9:56 p.m. at 9500 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

BURGLARY -COMMERCIAL BUILDING

3/10/2023, 2 p.m. at 300 Block of S. ROBERTSON BLVD.

BURGLARY - FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

3/19/2023, 8:50 a.m. at 9300 Block of GREGORY WAY 3/18/2023, 11 p.m. at 200 Block of S. CARSON ROAD

3/9/2023, 4:30 p.m. at 9100 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

BURGLARY -RESIDENTIAL (ACCESSED GARAGE ONLY)

3/12/2023, 4:35 a.m. 400 Block of N. PALM DRIVE

BURGLARY -RESIDENTIAL (NO ONE HOME)

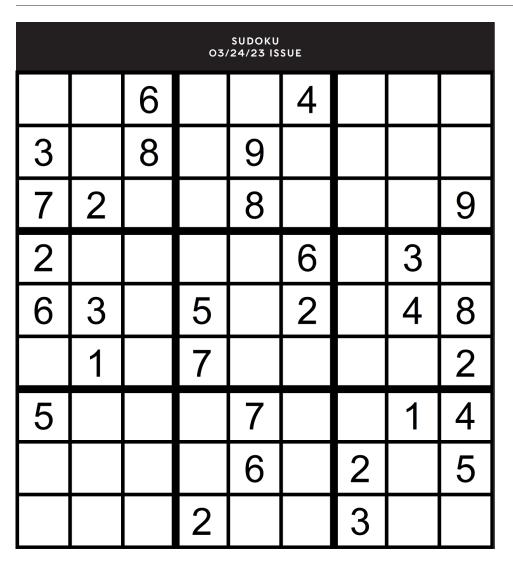
3/20/2023, 9:37 a.m. at 500 Block of SIERRA DRIVE

3/15/2023, 8:28 p.m. at 700 Block of N. ELM DRIVE

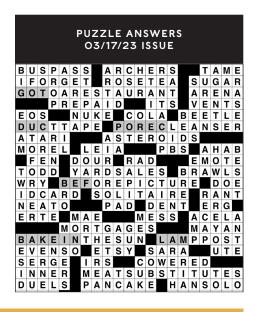
3/12/2023, 4 a.m. at 300 Block of N. PALM DRIVE

3/9/2023, 12:33 p.m. at 1000 Block of HILLCREST ROAD

Fun & Games



SUDOKU ANSWERS 03/17/23 ISSUE										
5	6	3	2	7	8	1	9	4		
2	4	8	3	1	9	7	5	6		
7	9	1	4	5	6	2	8	3		
8	5	9	6	4	2	3	1	7		
6	7	4	8	3	1	တ	2	5		
1	3	2	7	9	5	4	6	8		
4	1	6	9	8	3	5	7	2		
3	8	5	1	2	7	6	4	9		
9	2	7	5	6	4	8	3	1		



21

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THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE 03/24/23 ISSUE

18

22 26

30

57

80

THIS AND THAT BY DAVID TUFFS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

David Tuffs, of Pacific Grove, Calif., is a master's student in linguistics at the University of California, Santa Cruz, He's writing a thesis on negative verb forms in Mixtee, can Indigenous language in Mexico. To find potential theme answers for this puzzle, he used Java and a database of English phrases, then worked to get the most elegant examples. This is David's sixth puzzle and second Sunday for The Times. - W.S.

91 Palm product

92 Mexican capital

94 Some steel beams

96 They might result

101 Sportsman of the

104 Stop running, in a

105 Words with motion

Illustrated

way

or stone

106 ____-do-well

107 "Don't Matter"

singer, 2007

109 Issue featuring

Repeatedly

monarch

114 John known as

115 More adorable

116 Fightin' words

117 2012 Seth

113 "Gotcha"

112 "Bloody" English

108 Arduous journeys

celebrity issues/

the "Father of the

National Parks'

in booby prizes/ Physical discomforts

Century, per Sports

ACROSS

- 1 Turn off
- 6 Make a trade 10 Emulate Rockin' Robin, in a 1958 hit
- 13 Poke
- 18 "Go me!"
- 19 Somewhat, musically
- 20 Hemingway's home for over 20 years
- 21 Skatepark trick 22 One in charge of Brownies and
- cookies?/Easy to understand 25 Put away for now
- 26 Drink with a domed lid
- 27 More than just compact
- 28 "Consequently ..."
- 29 Feature of an ungulate
- 30 Dance move used to teach children how to limit spreading germs while sneezing
- 31 Post-dryer chore/ Splendid
- **35** Game stoppers
- **37** Shawkat of "Arrested Development' 38 It's a stretch
- **39** Steamed Chinese bun
- **40** Apt name for a horticulturist?
- 41 Wispy, as hair
- 43 Buzzer
- **ANSWERS FOUND** IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER...

- 44 Ring or belt,
- essentially
- and groom didn't invite/Steal a meal
- horseback
- genus name translates to "of the kingdom of the dead"
- 54 Moonfish
- **56** Speaker of the
- **59** Deep cut?
- 61 Brit's clothespin poetically

- **75** Green isle
- 76 Plus
- 79 Akbar's tomb locale 80 Despises
- 82 German deli meat/
- Discussion
- 85 One might be raised on a farm
- 86 "Washboard" features 88 M.L.B. player with
- over 600 career home runs, to fans
- Gritish side dish) 90 Poehler of "Inside

89 Mushv

- 45 One whom the bride
- **50** Now
- 52 Traveled on
- 53 Predators whose
- catchphrase "Did I do that?" on 1990s
- 57 Inoffensive
- 62 Utopia/Occasionally,
- 66 With 72-Across, postsledding mugful
- 69 Settles the score
- 70 Potential result of a
- strike
- 72 See 66-Across
 - MacFarlane film with a 2015 sequel
 - 118 Vocal nudge 119 Notification
 - DOWN
 - 1 Unyielding
 - 2 Feminist writer Jong
 - 3 Westminster competitor 4 Popular French
 - periodical **5** Article in a French periodical
 - 6 Stolen goods 7 Like yarn and old film

- 8 Intermission follower,
 - often 9 Party person,

 - 10 Siddhartha Gautama
 - 11 Like Nero Wolfe
 - 13 California's ____ Tree

 - 15 Donation center
 - 16 Paris-based carrier
 - 17 Tiny prop
 - 20 "Pleeease?"
 - 24 National birds of Germany, Egypt and
 - **31** Stereotypical name for a female poodle
 - 33 Calculus calculation 34 It might end on a high
 - note
 - **40** Sierra
 - 42 Glass of "This
 - American Life 43 Praise for a diva
 - 44 Tedious sort
 - **45** Lettuce, in many a low-carb recipe
 - 47 It smooths the way 48 Part of a goat or Africa
 - **55** Lee who wrote "Go Set a Watchman"
 - 58 "Am I understood?"

- informally
- by another name
- 12 One getting out early
- National Park
- 14 Brown of the Food Network

- 23 Impatient contraction
- Mexico
- 32 Grannies
- 36 Lent a hand
- 41 TV monitor, in brief?
- 46 Big jazz combo
- 49 Weapon with a spring **51** Behind, in slang
- 112 116
- 59 Grift 60 Assert
- 63 What gerunds are formed from
- 64 Not just bad 65 "99 Luftballons" singer
- 66 Three sheets to the wind 67 Gumbo vegetables 68 "Go, ___!"
- **69** Continue 71 Modern lead-in to -ade 84 Spots to relax 72 Coup group
- 73 Many a 21st-century
- liberal 74 PT Cruisers, e.g. **76** Ohio site of the first

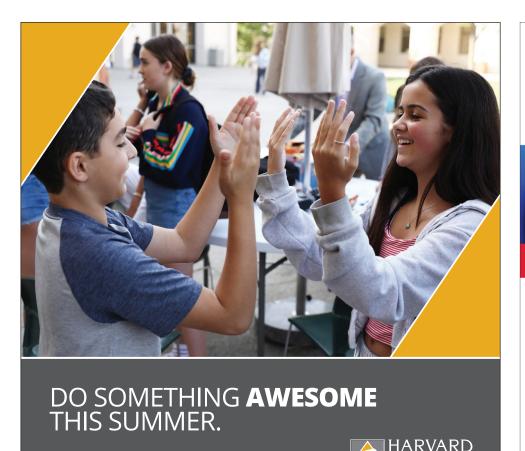
113

117

- Quaker Oats factory 77 NorCal hub
- 78 Grassy surface 81 Go with the wind, in
- a way 83 Where you hope to get a good deal
- 87 "Fiddlesticks!"
- 91 Clicks "I agree," maybe
- 92 Where to let a sleeping dog lie 93 Do some taxing work
- online? 94 Start of many a T-shirt slogan
- 95 Most of it is found underwater 97 Home of the world's busiest train station (3.5 million daily
- commuters) 98 Come to an end
- **99** River through Pakistan
- 100 Many interstate
- vehicles
- 102 No party person 103 Like noble gases 107 Blue: Sp.
- 108 "Am I oversharing?" 110 Childish nuisance 111 Major health
- legislation of 2010, in brief

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1841 San Ysidro Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; Robert Schlesinger 1841 San Ysidro Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL, registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on Robert Schlesinger, Owner. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: March 03, 2023; Published: March 24, 31, April 07, 14, 2023 LACC N/C

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2023040991 The following is/are doing business as: CURIO

449 N. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048; Daniel Cuevas 449 N. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL, registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on: Daniel Cuevas, Owner. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: February 23, 2023; Published: March 24, 31, April 07, 14, 2023 LACC N/C BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

ORDINANCE NO. 23-0-2873

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO REMOVE CERTAIN CURBSIDE PICKUP ZONES, READOPTING CITY MANAGER AUTHORITY TO ISSUE PERMITS FOR OUTDOOR DINING, READOPTING WAIVER OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FEES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTDOOR DINING AND ADDING ARTICLE 8 TO CHAPTER 4 OF TITLE 4 OF THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, international, national, state and local health and governmental authorities have responded to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus named "SARSCoV-2" and the disease it causes has been named "coronavirus disease 2019," abbreviated COVID-19, ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the City Manager, in his role as the Director of Emergency Services, proclaimed the existence of a local emergency pursuant to Section 2-4-107 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to ensure the availability of mutual aid and an effective City response to the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") and that state of emergency was ratified by the City Council on March 16, 2020 ("local state of emergency"); and

WHEREAS, restaurants located within the City were prohibited from offering dine-in service, limiting restaurants to delivery and takeout offerings only, which placed a sudden and severe financial strain on many restaurants, adding to the financial pressures in the industry that predated the COVID-19 crisis. In response, the City of Beverly Hills adopted measures to try to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on businesses in the City by waiving certain fees, and authorizing the use of parking spaces and street closures for temporary outdoor dining spaces and pick-up operations, as well as regulating fees imposed on restaurants by Third-Party Food Delivery services; and

WHEREAS, upon the end of the local state of emergency, these measures shall cease to be effective; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that designated curbside pickup zones have benefited both local businesses and their consumers, but some zones have also reduced parking availability and increased traffic congestion in the City, been misused by businesses for purposes other than order pick-ups, and may no longer be necessary to support businesses' pick-up operations; and

WHEREAS, outdoor dining generates business and creates vibrant commu-

nity spaces in the City. The City Manager's continued ability to issue street closure and other permits, and the waiver of Special Event Permit fees and other requirements, will facilitate outdoor dining and benefit both businesses and consumers alike: and

WHEREAS, the use of third-party applications and websites to place orders with restaurants for delivery and takeout remains popular amongst consumers even after in-person dining has resumed; and

WHEREAS, prior to the City's emergency regulations, third-party platforms often charged restaurants fees ranging from 30% to 40% of the purchase price per order; and

WHEREAS, restaurants, and particularly restaurants that are small businesses, have limiting bargaining power to negotiate lower fees with third-party platforms, given the high market saturation of third-party platforms; and

WHEREAS, permanently capping per-order fees will ensure restaurants in the City receive reasonable revenue from orders placed by consumers, while not unduly burdening third-party platforms that continue to be in high demand.

<u>Section 1</u>. The City Manager is authorized to review existing curbside pickup zones and remove zones that meet one or more of the following conditions:

- the curbside pickup zone is no longer reasonably necessary to accommodate the business needs of the nearby businesses;
- 2. the demand for parking in the immediate area outweighs the demand for a curbside pickup zone;
- 3. the curbside pickup zone significantly impacts traffic in the area; or
- 4. a nearby business has misused the curbside pickup zone.

<u>Section 2</u>. The City Manager is authorized to issue street closure permits and any other permits necessary to allow for temporary outdoor dining.

Section 3. The City shall waive fees associated with a Special Event Permit for temporary outdoor dining and shall waive the minimum ten (10) day period for filing an application for a Special Event Permit for temporary outdoor dining.

Section 4. Article 8 ("Third-Party Food Delivery Services") is hereby added to of Chapter 4 (Other Regulations for Specific Types of Businesses and Activities) of Title 4 (Regulation of Certain Types of Businesses and Activities) of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to read as follows:

"Article 8. Third-Party Food Delivery Services

Section 4-4-801. Definitions.

Delivery Fee: A fee charged by a Third-Party Food Delivery Service for providing a Retail Food Establishment with a service that delivers food and beverages from such establishment to customers. The term does not include any other fee or cost that may be charged by a Third-Party Food Delivery Service to a Retail Food Establishment, such as fees for listing or advertising the Retail Food Establishment on the Third-Party Food Delivery Service platform or fees related to processing the online order including, but not limited to service fees, fees for facilitating Online Orders for pickup, and credit card processing fees.

Online Order: An order placed by a customer, including a phone order, for delivery or pick-up from a restaurant located within the City.

Purchase Price: The menu price of the items contained in an Online Order, minus any applicable coupon or promotional discount provided to the customer by the restaurant through the Third-Party Food Delivery Service. Such term therefore

excludes taxes, gratuities and any other fees or costs that may make up the total amount charged to the customer of an Online Order.

Retail Food Establishment: A restaurant, delicatessen, bakery, coffee shop, or other eat-in or carry-out service of processed or prepared raw and ready-to-eat food or beverages.

Third-Party Food Delivery Service: Any website, mobile application or other internet service that offers or arranges for the sale of food and beverages prepared by, and the delivery or pick-up of food and beverages from no fewer than twenty (20) separately owned and operated food service establishments.

<u>Section 4-4-802</u>. Prohibitions. It shall be unlawful for a Third-Party Food Delivery Service to do the following:

- A. Charge a Retail Food Establishment a Delivery Fee that totals more than fifteen percent (15%) of the Purchase Price of each Online Order.
- B. Charge a Retail Food Establishment any amount designated as a Delivery Fee for an Online Order that does not involve the delivery of food or beverag-
- Charge a Retail Food Establishment any combination of fees commissions, or costs for the Retail Food Establishment's use of the Third-Party Food Delivery Service that is greater than five percent (5%) of the Purchase Price of each Online Order or to charge any amount of fees, commissions, or costs for the Retail Food Establishment's use of the Third-Party Food Delivery Service unless the contract between the Retail Food Establishment and the Third-Party Food Delivery Service allows for fees, commissions, and costs other than a Delivery Fee. For the purpose of this subsection fees, commissions, or costs do not include the Delivery Fee, which is capped at fifteen percent (15%).
- D. Charge a Retail Food Establishment any fee, commission, or cost other than as permitted in subsections A through C, above.
- E. Charge a customer any Purchase Price for a food or beverage item that is higher than the price imposed by the Retail Food Establishment on the Third-Party Food Delivery Service or, if no price is imposed by the Retail Food Establishment on the Third-Party Food Delivery Service, the price listed on the Retail Food Establishment's own menu.
- F. Retain any portion of amounts designated as a tip or gratuity. Any tip or gratuity shall be paid by the Third-Party Food Delivery Service, in its entirety, to the person delivering the food or beverages.

Section 4-4-803. Disclosures.

The Third-Party Food Delivery Service shall disclose to the customer an accurate, clearly identified, and itemized cost breakdown of each transaction, including, but not limited to the following:

A. The Purchase Price of the food and beverages at the cost listed on the Retail Food Establishment's menu.

- B. The Delivery Fee charged to the Retail Food Establishment.
- C. Each fee, commission, or cost, other than a Delivery Fee, charged to the Retail Food Establishment.
- D. Each fee, commission, or cost, other than the Delivery Fee or the Purchase Price of the food, charged to the customer by the Third-Party Food Delivery Service.
- E. Any tip or gratuity that will be paid to the person delivering the food or beverages.

Section 4-4-804. Violations.

If a Third-Party Food Delivery Service charges a Retail Food Establishment fees that violate this Section, the Retail Food Establishment shall provide written notice to the Third-Party Food Delivery Service requesting a refund within seven days. If the Third-Party Food Delivery Service does not provide the refund requested after seven days or the Third-Party Food Delivery Service continues to charge fees in violation of this Section after the initial notice and seven-day cure period, a Retail Food Establishment may enforce this Section by means of a civil action seeking damages and injunctive relief. The prevailing party in any such action shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorney

 $\underline{\text{Section 5}}.\quad \text{Sections 1 through 3 of this Ordinance shall not be codified}.$

Section 6. CEQA. This Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) which is the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment, and CEQA does not apply where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment. It can be seen with certainty that granting the City Manager the authority to remove certain curbside pickup zones, and the continued waiver of Special Event Permit fees and requirements and grant of authority to the City Manager to issue permits for temporary outdoor dining, as well as the enactment of regulations on third-party food delivery services will not cause a significant effect on the environment. In addition, these regulations do not constitute a project that is subject to the provisions of CEQA, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2) and (b)(5).

Section 7. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be considered a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the other provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 8. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the city within fifteen (15) days after its passage in accordance with Section 36933 of the Government Code, shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause this Ordinance and the City Clerk's certification, together with proof of publication, to be entered in the Book of Ordinances of the Council of this City.

<u>Section 9.</u> <u>Effective Date.</u> This Ordinance shall go into effect and be in full force and effect at 12:01 a.m. on the thirty-first (31st) day after its passage.

 $\underline{\text{Section 10}}.$ $\underline{\text{Certification}}.$ This City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance.

Adopted: March 7, 2023 Effective: April 7, 2023

LILI BOSSE Mayor of the City of Beverly Hills, California

ATTEST: HUMA AHMED (SEAL) City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: LAURENCE S. WIENER City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT: NANCY HUNT-COFFEY City Manager

VOTE: AYES: Councilmembers Nazarian, Friedman, Mirisch, Vice Mayor Gold, and Mayor Bosse NOES: None CARRIED

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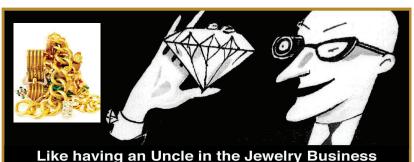
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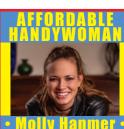


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Yes on Cheval Blanc Beverly Hills



Learn more at YESonBC.org

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Referenda contesting City Council Approval of the Cheval Blanc Hotel Zoning Ordinance and Development Agreement